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we are at present unable to say to what extent it has been accentuated by differences in the emulsion and atmospheric conditions.

1905, September 30th.

J. H. MOORE,
S. ALBRECHT.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF *NOVA AQUILÆ* No. 2.

Photographs of *Nova Aquilæ* No. 2 have been obtained with the Crossley reflector since August 31st, with exposures ranging from ten seconds to two and one-half hours. No indication of any nebulosity surrounding the *Nova* is shown on these plates. The photographic magnitude on August 31st was about 9.2 on the DM. scale, and by September 4th it had faded several tenths of a magnitude.

The following position of the *Nova* was obtained from a plate taken on October 1st with an exposure of ten seconds:—

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \ 1905.0 &= 18^{\text{h}} \ 57^{\text{m}} \ 4^{\text{s}}.8 \\ \delta \ 1905.0 &= -4^{\circ} \ 34' \ 53'' \end{aligned}$$

S. ALBRECHT.

PROGRESS OF WORK AT MOUNT WILSON.

Director HALE, of the Solar Observatory at Mount Wilson, is in Europe, and the other members of the staff find their time so fully occupied that notes on the work must wait until later.

A letter from Professor RITCHEY, however, from which I am permitted to quote, states that satisfactory progress is being made both in the construction of instruments and buildings and in the work of actual observation. Arrangements are now being made for the erection of a dome for the five-foot reflecting telescope.

Professor BARNARD, of the Yerkes Observatory, who has been at Mount Wilson since last January, has completed his series of photographs of the Milky Way, and has dismounted the Bruce photographic telescope preparatory to his return to Williams Bay.

The Smithsonian Expedition, under Professor ABBOT, which has been carrying on investigations on solar radiation at Mount Wilson, during the past summer, still occupies its station, but will complete its programme in a few weeks.

Professor HALE is expected to return to the observatory about October 20th.

R. G. A.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF AUGUST 29-30, 1905.

Detailed reports from the Crocker Eclipse Expeditions from the Lick Observatory have not yet been received, but cable messages from Director CAMPBELL, at Alhama de Aragon, Spain, and Professor HUSSEY, at Assouan, Egypt, state that the entire programme was successfully carried out. At the Labrador station, according to a message from Dr. CURTIS, the eclipse was not seen, owing to storms which apparently extended over a wide area. Dr. CAMPBELL states that the corona had no prominent streamers, but was circular, as in 1893. In our December issue we hope to print a general account of the three expeditions from this Observatory, with illustrations. Press dispatches report successful results at all stations along the path of the eclipse from Spain to Egypt.

R. G. A.

THE MOTION OF 13 *CETI* = Ho 212.

Three recent observations of this interesting binary system show that the companion star is now in the third quadrant. The mean of these measures is:—

1905.60 208°.2 0".13 3" 36-inch

The two components were distinctly separated at the time of the third observation, and as they differ very decidedly in magnitude there is no doubt about the quadrant. Dr. SEE measured this pair at Washington on one night in 1899.97, obtaining 250°.7 0".28, a result which was confirmed here the following year, when three nights' measures with the 36-inch gave the position—

1900.70 261°.0 0".21

As my measures since 1900 have shown that the motion is direct,—that is, that the position-angles increase with the time,—it appears that the companion star has described an arc of fully 300° about its primary in less than *six* years. It is therefore now certain that 13 *Ceti* must rank with δ *Equulei* and κ *Pegasi* as one of the most rapid of known visual binaries; in fact, an orbit with a period of 7.1 years will represent all the observations satisfactorily, and will also account for BURNHAM's failure to see the companion in 1877 and in 1890-91.

R. G. AITKEN.

September 25, 1905.